Rule of Life

Congregation
of the Blessed Sacrament
OFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION
CONTENTS

Preface ........................................................................................................... xi
Decree .......................................................................................................... xv
Abbreviations .............................................................................................. xvii

RULE OF LIFE

I. CAPTIVATED BY THE LOVE OF GOD

1. The Name of the Congregation ......................................................... 5
2. The Founder ....................................................................................... 6
3. Our Mission .......................................................................................... 8
4. The Spirit of the Congregation .......................................................... 10
5. A Religious Community ....................................................................... 11

II. THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL

6. A Path Traced Out for Our Communities .......................................... 15
7. A Paschal Community ......................................................................... 16
8. Unity and Diversity ............................................................................ 17
9. Community and Conversion .............................................................. 18
10. Community and Mission .................................................................... 19
11. Community Meetings ......................................................................... 20
12. Infirm or Elderly Religious ............................................................... 21
13. Death, a Paschal Event ..................................................................... 22
14. With Mary ......................................................................................... 23
III. A RADICAL RESPONSE
15. Religious Profession ........................................ 27
16. Chastity ....................................................... 28
17. Poverty ......................................................... 29
18. Disposal of Material Goods ................................. 30
19. Obedience ..................................................... 31
20. Search for the Will of God ................................. 32

IV. 'IN MEMORY OF ME'
21. The Celebration at the Centre ......................... 35

1. AROUND THE TABLE OF THE WORD AND THE BREAD
22. The Word of God ............................................. 36
23. The Liturgy of the Hours .................................. 37
24. The Celebration and Salvation History ............... 38
25. The Work of Salvation ...................................... 39
26. Eschatological Dimension ................................. 40
27. Celebration and Life ........................................ 41

2. IN A PROFOUND ATMOSPHERE OF PRAYER
28. Celebration and Prayer ..................................... 42
29. Response to the Presence ................................... 43
30. In the Dynamism of the Eucharist ....................... 44
31. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ................... 45
32. Participation of the People ............................... 46

3. AS CHURCH AT THE SERVICE OF THE WORLD
33. Inspired by Our Holy Founder ........................... 47
34. The Eucharist, Source of Our Mission ................. 48
35. In Union with the Church .................................. 49

V. A LIFELONG NEED: FORMATION
36. Prophetic Mission .......................................... 50
37. Mission of Social Involvement ......................... 51
38. Mission of Unity ........................................... 52
39. At the Service of the Word ............................... 53
40. Liturgy ......................................................... 54
41. At the Service of Parishes and Communities ......... 55
42. Centres of Prayer and Retreat ............................ 56
43. Sharing Our Ideal ........................................... 57
44. At the Service of Priests ................................... 58
45. The Press and Other Means of Social Communication ........................................... 59

1. INITIAL FORMATION
48. Seages ......................................................... 65
49. Admission ..................................................... 65
50. Directors of Formation ............................... 66
51. The Role of the Directors ............................ 67

The Pre-Novitiate
52. Nature ......................................................... 68

The Novitiate
53. Nature and Content ....................................... 69
54. Place and Duration ....................................... 70
55. The Formation Program ............................. 70
56. Admission to Profession ............................ 71

Religious Profession
57. Duration and Competent Authority .................... 72
VI. AT THE SERVICE OF OUR BROTHERS

1. PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT
   62. Exercise of Authority ........................................... 79
   63. The Role of Authority ......................................... 80
   64. Decentralisation ............................................. 80
   65. Co-responsibility and Participation .................. 81
   66. Communication ................................................ 82

2. THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT
   67. Bond of Unity .................................................. 83

The General Chapter
   68. Nature and Purpose ........................................... 83
   69. Frequency and Convocation .................................. 84
   70. Composition ..................................................... 84
   71. Competence ...................................................... 85

The General Council
   72. Composition and Role ....................................... 88
   73. The Superior General – Election .......................... 89
   74. The Superior General – Competence ..................... 91
   75. The General Consultants .................................... 92
   76. The Vicar General ............................................. 92
   77. Other General Collaborators ................................ 93

The Amplified General Council
   78. The Amplified General Council .............................. 95

3. THE PROVINCE
   79. Nature ............................................................. 96

The Provincal Chapter
   80. Constitution .................................................... 97
   81. Composition ..................................................... 98
   82. Competence ...................................................... 99

The Provincial Council
   83. Composition and Role ....................................... 100
   84. The Provincial Superior ...................................... 100
   85. The Provincial Consultants .................................. 101
   86. The Provincial Vicar .......................................... 102
   87. The Provincial Treasurer .................................... 102

The Amplified Provincial Council
   88. Nature and Composition ..................................... 103
   89. Provincial Commissions ..................................... 104
   90. Expansion of a Province ...................................... 104

The Region
   91. Nature ............................................................. 105
   92. Powers .............................................................. 106

Inter-Provincial Conferences
   93. Purpose and Nature ............................................ 107

4. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
   94. Nature ............................................................. 108
   95. The Local Superior ............................................ 109
   96. The Local Council ............................................. 110
   97. Community Meetings .......................................... 111
5. THE ADMINISTRATION OF TEMPORAL GOODS
   98. Principles ........................................... 112
   99. Administration ..................................... 113

6. SEPARATION FROM THE INSTITUTE
   100. Principles to be Observed ....................... 114

VII. THE VALUE TO BE ACCORDED TO THE RULE OF LIFE
   101. A Gift to be Accepted ............................ 117

FORMULA OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION
   102. Formula of Religious Profession ............. 121

Preface
THE RULE OF LIFE
AND VATICAN II

The Second Vatican Council promoted the renewal of religious life and asked the religious Institutes to revise their constitutions (cf. PC 2 & 3).

In response, the Renewal Chapter of 1966/1971 drew up the Rule of Life. After being tested within the Institute, then revised, amended and unanimously accepted by the 1981 General Chapter, it was submitted to the Holy See for approbation.

After some required modifications, it was approved by the Holy See on 1 August 1984, the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.¹

From that date the Rule of Life replaces the Constitutions of our Congregation, interpreting for our times the fundamental inspiration of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. The General Statutes which accompany it are drawn up and approved by General Chapters as the concrete application of the Rule.

---

₁ Now celebrated on 2 August.

THE RULE OF LIFE
AND THE CONSTITUTIONS

Our Founder left several drafts of the Constitutions, searching until his death for a better formulation of his charism. The 1864 edition of the Constitutions contains Father Eymard's attempt to codify the life of the Institute after the decree of approbation was given on 3 June 1863.

After his death in 1868, several changes were made to the Constitutions until they were definitively approved by the Holy See on 8 May 1895. Later on, further minor modifications were made at the request of the Church.

These texts, especially those composed by the Founder and approved by the Holy See, have a special place in the patrimony of the Congregation. Mediated and lived by generations of religious, they represent a spiritual tradition in the life of the Church. They therefore remain an important reference point for us and an abiding source of inspiration.

In accordance with the norms of Vatican II, the Rule of Life takes up this living tradition and reinterprets it in new texts. Rooted in the past, it is an authentic expression of our charism. It thus assures stability to our Institute, while remaining open to the future.
Decree

SACRA CONGREGATIO
PRO RELIGIOSIS
ET INSTITUTIS SAECLARIBUS

Prot. n. P:18 - 1/81

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, whose general house is in Rome, has inherited from its Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard, a new form of consecrated life within the Church. Its mission is to place at the centre of its life and the life of the faithful, the Eucharist celebrated in the truth and internalised in a prayer of adoration and contemplation.

In conformity with the decrees of Vatican Council II and other ecclesiastical documents, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament drew up a new text of Constitutions (Rule of Life) which the Superior General, subsequent to the vote of the Chapter, presented to the Holy See for approbation.

The Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, after having submitted the text to the study of theConsultors and taking into account the favourable vote of the Congress, approves and confirms the text, with the modifications requested by the same Congress, as contained in the French language copy kept in its archives, on condition that all the requirements of law be observed.
This Congregation expresses the wish that, drawing upon their rich spiritual heritage and faithful to this Rule of Life, the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament will be authentic witnesses to the renewing power of the Eucharist for Church and society.

Given at Rome, August 1, 1984, on the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

† V. FAGIOLO
Sect.

† Fr J. HAMER O.P.
Pro-Pref.

Abbreviations


Const. Constitutiones Congregationis Sanctissimi Sacramenti (1962)

EM Instrucitio: Eucharisticum Mysterium
(25 May 1967)

ET Apostolic Exhortation: Evangelica Testificatio
(29 June 1971)

LG Concilia Constitution: Lumen Gentium
(21 November 1964)

PC Concilia Decret: Perfectae Caritatis
(28 October 1965)

RR Roman Ritual: De Sacra Communione
et de Consecratione Mysterii Eucharistici extra Missam
(21 June 1973)

SC Concilia Constitution: Sacrosanctum Concilium
(4 December 1963)

Rule of Life